

GRAUSTARK

#281

1971EG, 1971EB, 1971EC, 1972A, 1972E

30 December 1972

1971EC

"Fall 1909"

VENICE BECOMES GERMAN WINTER RESORT

Unfortunately, Austria-Hungary failed to submit a retreat for the army dislodged from Galicia. It is accordingly removed. Germany, in submitting "Fall 1909" moves, did not take this possibility into account, and therefore all German units whose moves differed depending upon the direction of this retreat are ordered to hold.

ENGLAND (Lipton): A Mar-Pic; F Adr. S GERMAN A Pic-Ven; F Ion-Nap; F Eng-Mid; F Mid-Wes; F Wes-Tyr; F Lyo S F Wls-Tyr; A Nwy-St.P. A Mos S GERMAN A Sev; A Spa & F Nth hold.

FRANCE (Ayres): A Por-Spa.

GERMANY (Berman): F Ber-Pru; A Pic-Ven; A Tyr-Tri; A Mun-Ber; A Sev, A Gal, A Ruh, & A Sil hold.

ITALY (Loeder): A Say, A Gre, & F Nap hold; A Ven S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Boh-Tyr; F Tus-Pic.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bell): No moves received; F Aeg, A Boh, A Vic, & A Tri hold.

RUSSIA (Barents): A Rum S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bud-Gal; A Arm-Ank.

Underlined moves are not possible. Italy must retreat A Ven-Rom or A Ven-Apu or remove this unit; the direction of this retreat or removal should be sent in with the "Winter 1909" moves, which may be made conditional upon it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bre, Edl, Liv, Lon, Mar, Mos, Nwy, St.P, Spa, Swc, Tun. (11)
FRANCE: Por. (1)
GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Edl, Hol, Kio, Mun, Par, Sev, Ven, War. (10)
ITALY: Con, Gre, Nap, Rom, Say. (5)
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Scr, Tri, Vie. (5)

(continued on p. 2)

1972A

"Fall 1908"

RIVIERA SEASON ENLIVENED BY AUSTRIANS

Following "Spring 1908" moves, Germany retreated A Sil-Mun.

ENGLAND (Lipton): F Nth S GERMAN F Swc-Nwy; F Eng S GERMAN A Yor-Tor; F Por-Spa(s.c.).

FRANCE (Powell): No moves received. F Tyr, F Lyo, F Lon, & F Liverpool hold.

GERMANY (Haddleston): A Yor S ENGLISH F Nth-Lon; F Bel hold; F Nwy-St.P (s.c.); A Pir S F Nwy-St.P (s.c.); F Swc-Nwy; A Mun-Ber; A Pru-Liv; A Gas S ENGLISH F Por-Spa(s.c.).

ITALY (Ayres): A Nap-Rom; F Lvo-Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Honig): A Pic-Mar; A Tus-Rom; A Bud-Vic.

RUSSIA (De Prisco): No moves received. A Livonia, A Gal, A Sil, A Ber, & F Hrg hold; A St.P dislodged and annihilated.

TURKEY (Murray): A Gal-Vie; A Rum S RUSSIAN A Ser-Bud; A Con-Gre; F Aeg C A Con-Gre; F Tri S F Ven; F Ven S F Tri; F Ion-Nap.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Por, Spa. (2)
FRANCE: Bre, Liv, Lon, Tun. (4)
GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Edl, Hol, Kio, Mun, Nwy, Par, St.P, Swc. (11)
ITALY: Nap. (1)
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Mar, Rom, Vie. (4)
RUSSIA: Con, Mos, Scr, Sev, War. (5)
TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Gre, Rum, Say, Tri, Ven. (7)

Germany may build two new units (it would be three if three home supply centers were open) and Austria-Hungary may build one. England and Italy must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON.

(continued on p. 2)

1972E

"Spring 1909"

LAST BUFFER STATE GONE!

ENGLAND (Abbott): No moves received. F St.P(n.c.); A Livonia, F Bal, F Pru, A Ber, F Kis, F Eng, A Bel, A Ruh, F Tyr, F Tun, & F Wes hold.

FRANCE (Lipson): A Bur S ENGLISH A Ber-Mun; A Pie-Tyr; A Tus-Ven; A Mar-Pie; F Lyo S A Mar-Pie.

ITALY (Rieci): A Rom S TURKISH F Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Prosnitz): A Boh S A Mun; A War-Gal; A Vie-Tyr; A Mun S A Vie-Tyr; A Ven-Rom; A Tri-Ven; F GRE S TURKISH F Ion; A Bud-Vie.

TURKEY (Murray): F Nap S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ven-Rom; F Adu S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri-Ven; F Ion & A Mos hold; F Apu S F Ion; A Ukr S A Mos; A Sil-War.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Italian A Rom is annihilated. The deadline for "Fall 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 1973. Since we have completely run out of stand-bys, the first person to send in stand-by moves for England can have the job. Press releases are on p. 6, including a proposal for a draw.

1971EC (continued from p. 1)

RUSSIA: Ank, Rum. (2)

Germany may build two new units, and Austria-Hungary may build one. The deadline for these "Winter 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 1973. Since no more stand-bys are left, the first person to send in stand-by moves for Austria-Hungary can have the job.

Greg Warden would like to inform players that he did not drop out as Italy from negligence, but from an unfortunate combination of errors committed by the postal service.

Some of this turn's press releases are printed beginning on p. 4; others had to be put off until the next issue. In the last issue two different moves were printed for the Austro-Hungarian A Vie; of these, "A Vie-S A Tri, as in #279, was correct.

1972A (continued from p. 1)

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 1973. Since all stand-bys have been used up for this game, the first people to send in stand-by "Spring 1909" moves for France and/or Russia will become stand-bys or possibly players. (These moves are due on 27 January.)

Press releases for this game appear on pp. 6 and 12, and also below:

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (Sept. 29, 1908, DAMN): "We thank those who were invited to the war and didn't come." - Wolke Wilhelm, Emperor-in-Exile, Habsburg Empire.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Moves this week were particularly plagued with absences, probably due to the poor state of the mails at this time of year. Players who missed moves but who intend to continue play should let the Gamesmaster know, and this includes players in 1971EC whose Gamesmaster is John Boshara. A stand-by is needed for "Spring 1910" moves as Austria-Hungary in 1971EB; the first person who sends in these moves gets the job.

Bell Telephone Co., according to the Wall Street Journal of 8 December 1972, is having trouble with its employees. It's not the usual sort - but the National Labor Relations Board upheld Bell supervisors who ordered workers to stop wearing sweatshirts that read "Ma Bell is a Cheap Mother". The union had asserted that "the company illegally restricted the right of employees to engage in 'concerted activities'."

1971BC

3

"Winter 1906"

GERMAN FLEET SCUTTLED IN DUTCH CANALS

No removal was received for the dislodged Russian fleet, so the retreat P Bia-Arm is confirmed.

ENGLAND (Lipsch): Builds F Liv.

ITALY (Burloy): Builds A Ven.

GERMANY (Schleicher): Removes F

RUSSIA (Phillips): No build received.

Hol.

The deadline for "Spring 1907" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 8 JANUARY 1973.

They should be sent to John Bestera.

1971EB

"Winter 1909"

ITALY CLAIMS FRENCH BETRAYAL

The English move reported in GRAUSTARK #280 should be F St. P(n.c.)-Nwy. No retreat was submitted for the dislodged Russian A Sov, which is accordingly removed.

ENGLAND (Birsan): Builds A Loh.

ITALY (Bracke): Builds A Von.

FRANCE (Holcombe): Removes A Arc.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bell): No build.

The deadline for "Spring 1910" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 1973.

PARIS: Admiral Holcombe apologized to all concerned for the lack of tactical skill in the most recent fall maneuvers. He stated that the difficulty lay in our inability to ascertain the spring outcome prior to the fall deadline. He pledged that the campaign against the stupidly treacherous Italian would continue as long as we had the means to fight.

(Earlier press releases appear on p. 6.)

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE CAREER OF HARRY S. TRUMAN (1884-1972)

1922 - Joins the Ku Klux Klan.

1941 - Proposes conditions for an alliance of the USA and Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union.

1945 - Succeeds to the presidency, beginning the most corrupt administration since Harding's.

1947 - Begins Cold War. Prope up two military dictatorships in the Balkans against the Sinister Monolithic International Communist Conspiracy; a freshman Representative from Texas notices and approves. Decees a program of loyalty checks for government employees; a Freshman Senator from Wisconsin notices and approves.

1948 - Endorses civil rights and wins a surprise election victory.

1949 - Puts legislative program through Congress. Civil rights falls by the wayside.

1950 - Becomes the Lyndon Johnson of Korea.

1952 - Disastrously defeated in New Hampshire primary and decided to retire to private life.

1954 - Is called a "traitor" by Richard M. Nixon.

1958 - Is nearly assassinated by a man whose brother was killed in the first week of the Korean War.

1962 - Is asked by civil rights leader James Farmer to protest attack on Freedom Riders in Anniston, Alabama. Rudely rebuffs Farmer, claiming that Bible is against miscegenation.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Don Horton, 16 Jordan Court, Sacramento, Calif. 95826 announces the founding of a new postal Diplomacy bulletin, appropriately entitled Glam & Fang. The first game is free; moves are due the 1st & 16th of each month, and only one entry from a state will be accepted. (However, Horton regards northern and southern California as two separate states, a view in which most Californians seem to concur.)

Diplomacy, as I should say more frequently, was invented by Allan B. Calhoun and is published by Games Research Inc. of Boston.

1971EC - PRESS RELEASES

INNOMINATA, PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): The Phumphan Expedition to find and wipe out Pollutidar mysteriously reappeared today in this Gecondom. Robert of Abalone mustered out the seven hundred ninety one remaining soldiers, paid them all bonuses, and then attended a press conference. Since communication had been lost shortly after he had received direction to a place called 'Brooklyn', he was asked how his forces had gotten back to Phumpha. His reply consisted of repeated belching.

POLOPOLIS, LITTLE ITALY, PHUMPHA (JUNKS): At a conference of military forces, it was reported that the following war goals had been achieved:

"Pollutidar has been wiped out," said Kelvin the Swede. "Isn't that right, Robert?"

"Urrp," replied Robert of Abalone.

"Fine. In addition, Liechtenstein seems to have vanished from the face of the Earth. However, Herbert Halfwit seems to be still around, bottled up in Rumania." Using a pointer, he indicated Burgundy on a map.

"Finally, Phency Baloney has been inadvertently destroyed, between Sophia Septimus VIII and those animals that we repulsed."

"However," said Umberto the Last, "the war is not yet over. We have received communiques from the small Indian state of Mydunderabad. One, from Pandit the Bandit, leader of the Peristaltic Movement, asks that we aid the forces of Maharajah Kamasutra IX. Another, from Maharajah Kamasutra IX, requests that we proffer help to Pandit the Bandit. We will now discuss which side we should enter this war on."

"But," said John N of the Boredom of Dom-Dom, "why should we enter the war at all? We should clean our own house first."

"Speak for yourself," said Marcus Gelber, Goon of South Snowbank, and Commander of the Phumphan Internal Garrison. "My house is spotlessly clean."

At this point, the discussion deteriorated from the low standards of such Phumphan conferences.

PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): Got that press release yet?...Good, let's hear it....What is that?...I don't speak Karelian. I'm not a reindeer, you knew....Sorry. I didn't mean to insult your grandfather. Can you translate it into English?...It doesn't translate. Oy, gevalt...that doesn't translate either. It's enough I have to read Barents' r.r.'s, I have to read this too?

WOODMERE, LI. (from the offices of Kinney, Lipschwitz & Boringman, Synthesists): Recently there has been a growing discrepancy between press releases offered from here and from the United Rabble Rousing Press. Although we do not wish to impugn anyone, we would like to point out that our time-track viewer has just had its 20,000-year checkup, and is in the best possible condition. It is, as you know, a Tapscott 3200, as compared to URRP's Foghoot 16. We suggest that you get a technician in to check yours (we can supply one, of course), or buy a new one. After all, viewing of alternate time-tracks is hard enough without faulty equipment.

If you wish, we can offer you the services of our time-track viewer, on a time-sharing basis. Contact our office for further information.

MASONOPOLIS, PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): "Oh come, all ye faithful..." thus did Joshua ben-Yussuf, 'King of the Schmooes' welcome all to his new money-lending office.

"We are especially looking for people who are regular with their payments."

When asked if it was true that he had led an attack on the money lenders in the Temple on Dutch Elm Street, Joshua said, "Yes, that's true. The temple is not the sort of place for that sort of thing. Be-

sides, they were cutting into my business."

When questioned about rumors that he was advocating the godhood of his father, he answered, "Dad was a great guy, but the way he skipped and left my mother when he found out she was pregnant wasn't too nice. If mom hadn't been able to fool Joey into thinking she was a virgin - boy, was he stupid - mom would have had it."

POLOPOLIS, LITTLE ITALY, PHUMPHA (IDUNNO): The musical play, My Fair Europe, which opened earlier this year to rave reviews, is expected to sweep the awards this year, as the Anglo-German-Pollutidarean Entente has swept Europe.

The play is based on George Bernard Shaw's Arms and the Man, and stars H. Barents as Bluntshli, the chocolate cream soldier. The plot is an entertaining one. Two men, Signor Wardoni and Freiherr Belinji wish to prove that any idiot can rise high in Italian society (note: this is a weak point, as the high position of these two demonstrates that it is possible). They pick up an English girl who, for her nation, is both stupid (IQ 139) and poor (income £1000/annum). Wardoni and Belinji try to teach her proper Italian pronunciation: copyright Teacher & Highe, 1909.

"Quit, Signor Wardoni; Quit, Signor Wardoni;
The English and the Germans are coming, Signor Wardoni.
Wes not Tue; tyr not Tun;
Losing this way is no fun.
Tyr not Pie; Ven not Rome;
Bombs fall on our home."

"The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

"Eh, no, 'Liz'bet'. Datsa, 'Da renna inna Spenna, she'sa stay mennilly inna da plenna!'"

"The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

"No, 'Liz'bet'. You gotta learna ta talka da English good lika me. Me, I'ma da smartest man inna Italia. 'Da renna inna Spenna she'sa stay mennilly inna da plenna!'"

"The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain."

"Quertle gumble workle snee."

"Ah, you keepa da mouf shut, Barentsa."

The play is expected to remain open as long as the present war does. **ROMA:** Years of anarchy ended today in Italy, as Giovanni Duce, most prominent of the many condottieri spawned by the troubles, was acclaimed head of state. He immediately proclaimed himself Emperor, the first since Romulus II. He is to be officially crowned in the Lateran Palace by Pope Ignorant the Fourteenth.

His first official communique was sent to the English government. It said, "You got it backwards. The Romans invade Britain, not vice versa!"

Work immediately has begun on the first major project of the regime: repairing communications equipment to bring Italy back into contact with the rest of the world. However, technicians have discovered that the airwaves are polluted by huge jamming transmitters spewing out noise throughout the broadcasting spectrum. Using directional antennas, the technicians have located the two major sources of interference as being in Pollutidar and Phumpha.

GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is published on alternate Saturdays by John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Subscriptions are 8 issues for \$1. Back issues are 15¢ each or 10¢ for \$1; available back issues are 120, 131, 137, 139, 140, 167, 171, 198-200, 202, 206, 215, 217, 239, 247-250, 252-259, 271, 273-80. This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

1971EB - PRESS RELEASES

ROME (7 July 1909): The Italian government has voted to refuse to give aid to the French fleeing from the English. King Balbo stated today, "They can take their choice - an English POW camp or an Italian one."

VENICE (12 July 1909): General Conan, appointed to head the new army, was greatly disturbed when he arrived here and found a fleet.

The General stated for the press, "Oh well, win some, lose some."

VENICE (17 Nov. 1909): The Second Guards Legion, commanded by General Conan the Impatient, has been committed to the defence of the home-land. All units are mobilized to meet the threat from the crazed invaders from the West.

ROME (18 Nov. 1909): King Balbo has called on all citizens to defend the home-land. He cited the bravery of the Underground which allowed the 1st Venice Army to liberate the capital city.

WASHINGTON D. C. (AP, 20 Nov. 1909): Political observers were stunned when they read charges that the French barbarians consider the Italians to be treacherous. President W. H. Taft, newly re-elected, stated today "History will show that the French are the ones not to be trusted. Who can forget the 'Rape of Rome' in the fall of 1905 when the French said they were only there to aid against the Austrians, but also picked up a supply center. Who does not remember the Double-Deceit of fall 1906 when France allowed Turkey to be overcome and at the same time took Tunis from Italy. And in fall 1907, the kidnapping of Naples was another act of foulness." The US will mobilize and send troops and ships to aid against France.

ROME (22 Nov., 1909): Italian Foreign Minister Tarl stated today, "We put up with many indignities but the request for Venice, our last bit of home territory was too much. It would have made us a government-in-exile."

ANKARA (27 Nov. 1909): Sultan Pasha Paublo said today that "The Turkish people will support their Italian overseers against the French hordes. The Turks, too, have been betrayed by the illiterate beasts of Frankendom."

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN TUSCANY AND ROME (6 Dec. 1909): A member of the UPI is interviewing a French officer. The French officer, who was digging a ditch, stated Italy should not have been attacked but our leader King Ted the Crazy only thinks about the short-game and not about winning. To give the game to England is the mark of a coward." Asked why an officer was digging a ditch, he replied, "That's all a First Lieutenant in the Civil Engineers is good for anyway."

1972E - PRESS RELEASE

PARIS: To LONDON, VIENNA, and, CONSTANTINOPE: Let's stop wasting our time. In 1909 let me take Rome, Turkey can take Naples, Italy is eliminated, and we can call it a four-way draw and all move on to more productive matters. If the Turks and Austrians don't agree, I'll feed England all my centers and try to get him up to 18. If England doesn't agree, I will be very receptive to suggestions from the Austrians and Turks.

1972A - PRESS RELEASE

LONDON (1 April 1908): In response to criticism in the foreign press, the Government today issues a White Paper on British National Objectives in the Current Crisis. The full text of the shortest White Paper ever issued by any government follows:

"The French Stabbed; Bugger the French"

(Other press releases in 1972A appear on p. 12.)

7 GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY - ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

The following addresses update the information that appeared in GRAUSTARK #277. They include all new subscribers, readers with new addresses, and readers who have extended their subscriptions. Unlike the original listings, they are given alphabetically.

Margot Adler (290)
 William Attoberry (285)
 David Ayres (1971EG-F, 304)
 Douglas Beyerlein (284), 3934 S. W. Southern, Seattle, Wash. 98116
 Steven Cooper (T)
 David G. Crosson (286)
 Harry Drews (293), 110 Manchester Rd., Kitchener, Ontario N2B 1A2, Canada
 Yalo Edoiken (284)
 Robert L. Eisen (289)
 Roger Hanson (287), 7005 Manhattan Lane, Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001
 John Hendry (288)
 Richard Holcombe (T), 45 Kimberlin Heights Dr., Oakland, Calif. 94619
 Lt. Ted Holcombe (1971EB-F), HRB/S-4 (562062-3247), 38th ADA Bde, APO San Francisco, Calif. 96570
 Robert Holmberg (303), 1025 S. Paxton, Sioux City, Iowa 51106
 Donald Horton (288)
 Richard L. Hull (T), Apt. 2, 4720 Cloyne, Oxnard, Calif. 93030
 David Kristol (311)
 John Loeder (1971EC-1, T)
 Maj. Elliot S. Lipson (1972A-E, 1972E-F), 4419 Goldbrooke Court, Alexandria, Va. 22306; 703-765-7013
 Ted McDonald (285), 4711 Tuckerman St., Riverdale, Md. 20840
 Gerald A. McGowin (293), 171 Forest Lane, Atherton, Calif. 94025
 Tom McMahon (287), 3 Moreland Ave., Newton, Mass. 02159
 Edward C. Ostermeyer (286), P. O. Box 3556, Eastern Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tenn. 37601
 Jim Rilly (283)
 Bern Schwartz (290)
 Donald E. Stohle (285), 20 Devon St., Malverne, N. Y. 11565
 Rick Stuart (286)
 Arthur Jay Sussman (295), 196 Liberty St., San Francisco, Calif. 94119
 Gary Tesser (294)
 Dick Trtok (288)
 LTC Charles R. Vest, 575-36-9590, 130 STA HOSP, APO New York, N. Y. 09102 (296)
 Gregory A. Warden (1971EG), 911 S. Farragut St., Philadelphia, Penn. 19143
 Robert E. Warren (317)
 George Wells (286)
 Paul J. Wood (T)

Please send any further corrections to the Gamesmaster as soon as possible.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

There will be an across-the-boards gaming session here on the afternoon of Saturday 27 January 1973, beginning at 1 PM. Please let me know whether you'll be coming.

James Massar is announcing openings for regular Diplomacy games, the Youngstown Variant, SE Asia 1956, and Origins of World War II, in his titleless bulletin. Fees are \$1 plus subscription, postage, and deposit; see p. 10 for his address.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

BOB LIPTON, 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N. Y. 11598 [until about 15 January 1973]: How would you adjudicate the following problem:

FRANCE: A Ruh-Mun; A Bur & A Kie S A Ruh-Mun.

GERMANY: A Mun-Ruh; A Ber S ITALIAN A Boh-Mun.

ITALY: A Boh-Mun; A Tyr S A Boh-Mun.

The situation seems rather confused to me.

[I would adjudicate as indicated, with the underlined moves not possible. France is trying A Ruh-Mun with 2 supports, and Italy is trying A Boh-Mun with 2 supports. Thus they stand each other off.]

JOHN BOYER, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, Penn. 17013 (5 December):

The following is submitted for your "Diplomatic Pouch" in hopes of clearing several points about the IDA:

I have been getting GRAUSTARK for quite some time, and I have read many comments concerning the IDA and the Diplomacy Review. Being the current Editor of the IDA (and thus the publisher for DR), and being unopposed for re-election, I feel that I have the authority to back my statements. They are as follows:

1) Bob Johnson has been a member of the IDA for 1972, and I mailed on December 4th his last copy of the Diplomacy Review as a 1972 member. As far as I know, Bob Johnson has not rejoined the IDA for another year.

2) I have written Bob two separate letters inquiring about the DR service, and asked if I could help straighten out whatever problems he was having with the DR. However, I never heard from him. So, all I can assume is that he received his copies of the DR late on account of the post office (such things do happen).

3) Comments about the IDA being a pet of Peery or being Peery-controlled, etc. are no longer true (if they ever were). It is true that Larry Peery played a large part in founding the IDA, and his heavy contributions to the IDA have, I believe, been his personal downfall. That is, he apparently went beyond his work capacity to help start the IDA. This, also apparently, has resulted in a lack of work on his part with his games that he should have been gamesmastering. Now, Larry Peery will not be a Council member of the IDA, at least for 1973. In fact, he would have run for another term as President were it not for the criticism that came not only from outsiders, but also from those who were members of the IDA. Rightly or wrongly, the IDA has rejected his continuation as its leader, and the IDA has begun to develop its own mind and will.

4) There have been accusations that the IDA has been too slow to produce results (if any, some add). What the masses don't know are the problems involved with running a postal organization on a democratic basis. Indeed, I feel that we have been pioneering and breaking ground in this area of running an organization by mail on a democratic basis. The process of experimenting and developing a practical system for carrying out its functions as the "group leader" has taken much of the Council's time and work devoted to the IDA. Now, the groundwork on this practical system has been started, and the payoff in dividends as completed projects, etc., will start. This is why we are saying that 1973 will be the crucial year for the IDA - whether it will be effective as a postal organization. If we fail, it will be because the work load has been too great for the few individuals who were willing to work for the IDA. The workload has made Peery its victim - will it do the same for others? I hope not. As an example of our problems, the current elections have resulted in 36 nominees but only 16 candidates. This apparently means that people will nominate others (many were nominated by other people - they did not nominate themselves), but the nominees didn't want the work. In the end, we will have our Council, but a lack of help for the various committees and projects will continue. It looks like the Council will

have to do everything. If other people start to complain that we seem like a clique - remember, no one wanted our jobs! So, many of the same people will be returning, not only because they will do the work, but because there is no one else active or courageous enough to take all the work involved along with all the criticism.

[I am glad to hear that Peery is being dealt out of IDA affairs. But what new wild hair is afflicting him? About a month ago I received an apparently circular letter from him, in which he sought discussion on certain unspecified problems now plaguing the world of postal Diplomacy. Is he going to set up another private Diplomacy fandom, now that the IDA is getting away from him?

[A group comparable to postal Diplomacy fandom has existed for many years, and it has an "organization by mail on a democratic basis". The fandom is science-fiction and fantasy fandom, a loosely organized group of enthusiasts in which many Diplomacy fans including myself are involved. The fan organization to which I refer is the National Fantasy Fan Federation, or N3F. It is now about 30 or 35 years old. Apparently the IDA is trying to do within postal Diplomacy fandom what the N3F has done for science-fiction and fantasy fandom.

[To find out how well this works, ask any science-fiction fan about the N3F. Go ahead. Just ask him.]

JOHN HENDRY, 17 Price Road, Peabody, Mass. 01960 (7 December): To the letters you printed in GRAUSTARK #279. The one on Johnson vs IDA had been printed in GRAUSTARK #275. The first one was written to you in February of 1972, and I have your reply, dated 2/23/72. Had it been lost in the shuffle all this time? [That is very likely. I've got a holl of a shuffle around here lately.]

JIM REILLY, Box 1499, Hoya Station, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20007 (13 December): I did not mean to say that I consider questioning from Triumph evidence of religious prejudice. (See comments in GRAUSTARK #273 and Reilly's letter in #278.) I consider it prejudiced to take what is in Triumph and then say it reflects the views of the Church and Catholics in general. The Church is marked by a diversity of opinions among its members, and it is unfair to imply that all or most of us are reactionaries. It just isn't so. If indeed the Church is intent on all those nasty things that you say it is, it has done a remarkably poor job of getting those ideas across to me, and I have had Catholic instruction of one sort or another for over twelve years now. The closest I ever came to meeting a Catholic in Triumph's mold was in the fifth grade, when I had a Catechism teacher who ranted against Playboy, and said the Communists were trying to demote Christopher Columbus (a Catholic) by saying that he didn't discover America. [Well, for that matter, Leif Ericsson was a Catholic too.] This was more than offset, however, by an Italian priest I met earlier this year in Thailand who went around helping the peasants burn down Chinese landlords' houses. As you can see, we have all types. I suspect most of us are somewhere in between my fifth grade Catechism teacher and the Italian priest.

And then there is your statement about how most Catholics you've talked to seem to be in Triumph's camp. I'm sure I've talked to at least as many Catholics as you have about political matters, and I believe that you have run across an odd cross-section, if indeed they are all reactionaries as you imply they are. Do you hunt out your Catholics from Triumph's subscription list, perhaps?

That bit about compulsory pregnancy was cute, but inaccurate. The Church has taken no official stand on birth control, and that matter is to be weighed in each individual's conscience. There is no binding Church doctrine on the issue.

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerve

Pope Paul has expressed his opinion on the use of birth control pills, and is against it; however, he has not spoken ex cathedra on the matter, in his capacity as Pope. And here again, there is a wide divergence in Catholic opinion on the matter. (Unfortunately, some people in the Church have chosen to interpret the Pope's opinion as binding, which it isn't.)

And finally, as to those Latin masses: I have a good deal of fondness for the Latin masses myself, for reasons which don't have anything whatsoever to do with politics or ideologies. Just because a person likes Latin masses, it doesn't necessarily mean he's an arch-conservative. [That's how the Catholic Traditionalist Association is interpreting the big turn-outs at its Latin masses.] Just because a person likes lasagna doesn't mean he's Italian. You are creating implications where they don't exist.

In any case, have a happy Holiday season. I hope I've convinced you that not all of us Catholics are ogres.

[Certainly. The big problem is, that whenever the local Archdiocese makes a political pronouncement, or lay Catholic politicians invoke religious principle in a political matter, they seem to support the same conservative views that dominate Triumph. To judge from these sources, the principal concerns of the Roman Catholic Church locally are the continuation of the war against Vietnam, the repeal of the law allowing abortion, censorship of films, and public money for private schools.

[I have recently discovered a publication that makes Triumph sound like Ramparts. It is called Rough Beast - a name taken from a famous poem of the Irish Fascist poet William Butler Yeats. (Nor am I being rhetorical in calling Yeats a "Fascist" - in the 1930's he belonged to an Irish Catholic Fascist organization called the Blueshirts.) For further information see PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM, which I circulated last year as a rider to some issues of GRAUSTARK. Rough Beast is published every other month at \$6 for 12 issues from 1522 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC 20036. It attacks "American secular-liberalism...the degeneration of Anglo-Protestantism", praises the Nazi collaborationist Charles Maurras as a great philosopher, and warmly supports "the unchanging, non-relevant, intransigent, universal and unashamedly authoritarian Holy Mother Church".]

JAMES MASSAR, 127 N. Emmons St., Dannemora, N. Y. 12929 (7 Decomber): Your farce called Stuttgart Sentinel is almost funny - it would be if not for the fact that in your last paragraph you write people like myself off as "such slime". In all past GRAUSTARKs I can't remember you ever using such terms to describe anyone and wonder just what has gotten into you? [The full-scale resumption of your wretched war, that's what.] By what right do you claim the right to regard other people as "slime"? Have you founded your own monopoly on truth? Do you really have no doubt that you just might be wrong in some of your ideas?

No doubt you will write off the above with some trivial remark concerning itself with some irrelevant matter, but then, that is now you answer most letters.

[No, I'm not going to be trivial about this one. I did refer to war lovers as "slime" and I'll do it again, slime. You people have for years dehumanized yourselves by your support of this war, and you now have no right to accuse other people of trying to dehumanize you because they recognize what you are.

[I want to assert in the strongest possible terms that there is no moral equality between the people who want war and the people who want peace. As an opponent of the American invasion of Vietnam I am immeasurably your moral superior. Yes, as a Pacifist I am right, and you are wrong. Does that answer your question?

[While SS is a farce, it's not my farce. There really is a blood-

thirty crop named David Staples. His address is RR1, Box 120, Fargo, North Dakota 58102. Write him if you don't believe me. In a second issue of SS, even more poorly ditted than the first, he repeats his praise of the John Birch Society, attacks Nixon for going to Peking and compares it to Chamberlain's trip to Munich, and shows a huge boot crushing the UN, Nixon, and other things he dislikes.]

My respect for you had gone up with issue #277 where you explained your positions and how they came about. But now it has plummeted down to 0 and even below! You have shown yourself a tyrant yourself - unable and unwilling to respect someone else's beliefs. At least "slime" can do better than that!

[Once again you hit the mark. I do not respect pro-war beliefs.]

So I'm a war-lover, eh? On what grounds? That I oppose the tyrannical enslavement of the minds of millions of human beings - bull. War (for us) has irrevocably been proven the only effective deterrent against aggression throughout history. [What part of America did Vietnam invade?] "Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent" perhaps? Well, when someone's trying to enslave you or kill you or anyone else there is no other solution! Do not tell me that you will let someone kill you when you can prevent that act by an act of violence on your part. I suppose you would have rather seen Poland, France, and Britain submit to Hitler in 1940 (1939)? They (and the Vietnamese) knew better, but it seems you don't!

[The calendar hanging on my wall reads 1972. What year does the calendar hanging on your wall read?]

Finally, because no one else has yet pointed it out, you are a hypocrite! Issue #277 proves it. You admit that you believed in liberal democracies and their principles, now you have changed that belief. Now you deny anyone else the right to change their beliefs (McGovern, Gifford, and so on ad infinitum). In all previous ORUSTARs you have never been inconsistent, but now you prove yourself just as bad as anyone else on this whole planet.

[To judge from his stated policy on the Middle East, McGovern has not deviated an inch from his pre-war stand of a decade ago.]

[Your assumption that an evil Communist Conspiracy is Out To Get Us, like the evil Jesuit, Jewish, or Masonic Conspiracies of previous years, is so far removed from the actual situation that I do not propose to enter any arguments that assume the existence of this myth. There is a name for people who believe that they have millions of sinister, secret, lurking enemies. It is not a political label.]

JOHN LEGER, P. O. Box 1606, Huntsville, Ontario (30 November). Thanks for running my letter as written. [In #278.] You might be interested to know that the War Measures Act issue played no part whatever in our recent elections. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that there was an agreement among all parties not to use it as an election issue. I knew that our three local candidates wouldn't discuss it at all-candidates meetings!

I'd be interested in learning the source of the quote you used, ["Poor Canada!..."] I've read it somewhere but I can't remember where. [I fear that this is exactly my case, too.] Of course it's amusing but completely false. French government? You've got to be kidding! We have four main political parties, not four thousand!

Actually what we have is Canadian government, Canadian know-how, and Canadian culture...if only we could convince ourselves of the fact.

[There was once a Canadian musical called My Fair Lady in which one character lamented that Canadians are so busy persuading Americans that they're not British, and so busy persuading the British that they're not Americans, that they have no time left to be Canadians.]

1972A - PRESS RELEASES

VIENNA (DAMN, 9 Oct. 1907): The Emperor of the Dual Monarchy today saluted his brave and loyal troops for a magnificent job in defending their homeland from foreign invaders.

Emperor Volke Wilhelm was quoted as saying to an aide, however, "What was ours is ours again, but I wouldn't unpack any large valises." This disheartening remark was forgotten, though, in the context of the rousing speech which Wilhelm delivered. Excerpts follow:

"Four score and seven months ago, our Armies brought forth to this Empire new lands, to compensate for those lands lost to the infidel Turks and blaspheming Italians.

"Now, with cannons to the right of us, cannons to the left of us, and cannons in front of us, we charge into the looting Brigands.

"No doubt the Turks, Russians, and Italians will little note nor long remember what happens here today (except, perhaps, the Italians) but we must be certain that the fighting spirit of Austria-Hungary is not forgotten!

"Thus, I ask that you fight our enemies to the bitter end, hindering their advance into our villages and homes to the utmost.

"To the Germans to whom we owe both our past survival and present collapse, we beseech them not to abandon us to the vile wolves (and bears) of the south and east!

"Our value to the Germans has been great and can continue to be great. We call upon them to send elements of the Prussian Cavalry to reinforce our lines as quickly as possible, while we still have lines to reinforce...

"Should the central government collapse, I expect all citizens of the Empire to resist, from mountain outposts if necessary.

"In the meantime, ask not what your Armies can do for you, ask what you can do for your Armies!"

Then to thunderous applause and a standing ovation (and a backdrop of Turkish and Russian artillery explosions to the east, west, and south) Emperor Volke Wilhelm stepped majestically into his waiting train and waved goodbye to the cheering throngs as the engineer got up steam for a vacation in Geneva for the Emperor of the Dual Monarchy.

NAPLES: Greedy Mike Stabs Again.

SPAIN: Now, I'll sink your ships. Teach you to pick on me.

GRAUSTARK #281

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226
U. S. A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

"As for the 'truce' - well, does anyone seriously expect that it will last past Election Day?" - me.
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